



May 10, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pat Tiberi
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures
106 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Camp, Ranking Member Levin, Chairman Tiberi and Ranking Member Neal:

National Farmers Union (NFU) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments for the record regarding the committee's **hearing on Certain Expiring Tax Provisions held April 26, 2012**. NFU has represented family farmers, ranchers and rural residents since 1902 and we work to improve the well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities by advocating for grassroots-driven policy adopted annually by our membership. On behalf of our 200,000 family farm members, I urge the committee to extend the expiring Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit (PTC) as quickly as possible.

The PTC is the main driver of wind project developments. Farmers and ranchers across the country understand the opportunity that renewable energy presents as a source of revenue for their operations and their communities. The PTC is crucial to the wind industry, especially in states in the middle of the country that have the opportunity to carry renewable power to larger load centers across the country. Whether it is selling electricity on to the grid or offsetting electricity costs on their operation, America's farmers and ranchers are eager to harvest the renewable resources on their land. Unfortunately, the uncertainty of the PTC extension makes financiers and businesses hesitant about investing in or developing new projects. Because wind projects are developed several months in advance, the industry has already seen layoffs in the workforce and drop-offs in orders.

Ending the PTC would be devastating to the renewable energy industry. Analysis by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) found that 37,000 U.S. jobs connected to the wind sector would be lost as a result of ending the PTC. Across the entire the supply chain, from manufacturing plants to installation and maintenance, jobs will be at risk. Fewer economic opportunities currently exist in rural America, forcing young people to find work elsewhere. At a time of economic distress, we cannot afford to end investment in this industry that is critical for rural economic development.

NFU strongly urges the committee to take up an extension of the PTC as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger Johnson, President
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Hearing on Certain Expiring Tax Provisions